

CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

Nov. 6, 2000

News Briefs

ELECTION DAY

Here's how the folks in personnel say to handle Election Day (Nov. 7) when it comes to filling out the time sheet:

There are no requirements for requesting/approving voting leave and timesheets should reflect "Holiday" (903) leave.

WSH CHILI A SCREAM

Western State Hospital won the best theme award at the recent Hopkinsville Salutes Fort Campbell Chili Cookoff. WSH used a haunted house with monsters (WSH staff) to dish out "Terrorific Chili." It won best theme among 62 civilian entries.



TIP OF
THE
WEEK

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is sometimes called the "silent killer" because it does damage gradually, without showing symptoms. Unless you take your medicine exactly as instructed, your blood pressure could shoot back up and you would never know it. If you develop unpleasant side effects, inform your doctor, but do not stop taking the drug unless directed to do so.

Kentucky Smoking Rate Drops

One of the state's biggest health issues -- smoking -- was in the news last week. Kentucky has dropped from the leading state for adult smokers to No. 2, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Kentucky's adult smoking rate dropped from 30.8 percent in 1998 to 29.7 percent in 1999. Nevada's 31.5 percent rate for 1999 made it No. 1.

"This is great news for our smoking prevention and cessation efforts in Kentucky," said Cabinet for Health Services Secretary Jimmy Helton. "But we obviously still have a lot of people who smoke, and we will continue to work to reduce the percentage even more."



Health officials say there are a variety of reasons for the reduced percentage of smokers in the state since there are many local, state and national efforts aimed at reducing smoking.

The CDC has been funding tobacco use prevention and cessation efforts in 11 local health districts in Kentucky in recent years. This year, Gov. Paul Patton and the General Assembly set aside \$5.5 million for these efforts. Those funds are being distributed to all 55 local health districts for tobacco use prevention and cessation efforts that are already underway and to also work with community partners on activities to be carried out next year.



Products Day Sale Nov. 17 at CHR

The Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services Products Day Sale is Friday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the CHR lobby.

The first Products Day Sale was in 1987 and is now held twice a year in April and November. Traditionally, the community mental health/mental retardation programs as well as facilities from across the state participate in the sale.

Wood products such as paper towel holders, painted wood carv-

ings, baskets, wreaths, stools, bookcases, jelly cabinets and dressers; candy from the Candy

Kitchen; ceramics; and a variety of other items will be showcased. In addition, the Candy Kitchen takes orders for Christmas candy.

The sale offers a chance for CHS and CFC employees to see some of the work of the MH/MR programs across the commonwealth and to do a bit of early Christmas shopping.


All sale proceeds go back into the individual programs.



Smokeout Booth Planned For Nov. 16

The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout will be Nov. 16. This year will mark the 24th anniversary of the day in which more Americans quit smoking than any other, including New Year's Day.

The Cabinet's Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program will be having a display, videos and other information available in the front CHR building lobby on Wednesday, Nov. 16 for the Great American Smokeout.

This year's program focus will be on secondhand smoke and it's effects on children. If you smoke and are looking for help in quitting, this booth will offer some ideas. 

KECC Victory Celebration Is Nov. 14 At Civic Center

The KECC Victory Celebration is Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Frankfort Civic Center.

Chapple Is New Quality Improvement Director

Lynn Chapple is the new Director of Quality Improvement for the Department of Medicaid.

She is a registered nurse by background and trained at Bellevue Hospital in New York City where she was raised.

Chapple has worked in the field of quality improvement since 1980, beginning at Tulane University Hospital where she was a coordinator and department director for Quality, Utilization, Risk and Case Management.

In 1985, Humana recruited her to work in Louisville. Chapple was a member of the Corporate Support Team which conducted pre-surveys for the Joint Commission, an accrediting agency for hospitals.


When Humana closed the hospital division, she worked in Louisville for a physician independent practice association where she helped develop a physician profiling and incentive system including the physician education component.

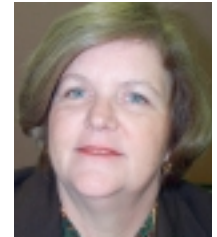
Chapple also worked with physi-

cian committees on clinical guidelines and developed a method to implement, monitor compliance to clinical guidelines in order to link

them to the incentive program. She also worked in the Region III Partnership during start-up and was responsible for the quality, fraud and abuse and the dental, pharmacy, family planning and vision subcontractors.

In her most recent position, she managed the medical management function which included quality, case management, WIC program and the pharmacy contract at a Michigan health plan which was half commercial and half Medicaid.

Her role in Medicaid will be to develop a comprehensive measurement system of health outcomes for all populations served as well as coordinate interventions that improve the outcomes for Medicaid members. 



Chapple


State Parks Offer Special Rates To State Workers

The winter months can be a great time to stay at a Kentucky State Park lodge. The crowds are gone, many special events are scheduled throughout the park system, and plenty of recreational facilities still are available, including indoor pools at two parks.

To encourage Kentucky's public

employees to use their state parks, the Department of Parks conducts an annual "Commonwealth Connection" promotion. Through March 31, 2001, up to four people may stay in a lodge room for only \$39 per night. The rates for cottages vary from \$60 to \$95 per night. This promotional rate is

available to all active and retired state, county, city and federal employees, including teachers and other school employees. Reservations may be made up to one month in advance.

For more information and reservations, call 1-800-255-PARK. To check availability of rooms and to get more information, visit the state park web site at <http://www.kystateparks.com>. 

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